Solution

Answer 1
Democracy is a form of government of the people, by the people, for the people. Therefore, it recognises the basic principle that all men and women are equal and capable of governing themselves through elected public representatives. Hence, it can be said that democracies are based on political equality.

Answer 2
The Haldia sea-port was developed as a subsidiary port to relieve pressure on the Kolkata port.

Answer 3
The citizens’ right to know about the decision-making process of the government and examine it is known as transparency.

Answer 4
The main aim of the French revolutionaries was the overthrow of monarchical rule and the ‘Ancien regime’ and the establishment of Republican government in France.

OR

Concentration camp implies a prison where people are detained without the due process of law. Nazi Germany imprisoned Jews in concentration camps for the purpose of torture and ethnic cleansing.

Answer 5
While making the purchases of gold jewellery, consumers should check for the standard quality certification mark, i.e. the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) hallmark.

Answer 6
The Consumer Protection Act was enacted by the Indian Parliament in December, 1986 for protecting the interests of the consumers.

Answer 7
Money acts as a medium of exchange as it facilitates the process of exchange by removing the defects of the barter system.
Answer 8
Political parties involve partisanship because their identity and political existence is defined by the policies they support and the interests they uphold.

Answer 9
Democracy is accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the people in the following manner:

i. It takes action by extending various benefits to the historically disadvantaged sections of the society, i.e. the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Various benefits are provided by the State to these sections to enable them to attain equal status and opportunities.

ii. It provides all the citizens the ‘Right to Vote’ and elect their political representatives.

iii. It also takes into account the differences of various ethnic groups within its population. In a democracy, the majority has an added responsibility of assimilating the minority community in the decision making process so that the minority does not feel alienated.

Answer 10
Following were three major problems faced by the peasants of Awadh during the days of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

i. In Awadh, the talukdars and landlords extracted very high rents and a variety of other cesses from the peasants.

ii. The peasants also had to do ‘begar’ labour for the landlords and work on their farms without any remuneration.

iii. There was no security of tenure and peasants were often evicted in order to deny any opportunity for them to develop a right over the land they cultivated.

Answer 11
Many of India’s energy problems could be solved by solar energy in the following ways:

i. India is a tropical country and hence there are immense possibilities of tapping sunlight by installing photovoltaic cells which convert sunlight directly into electrical energy.

ii. Solar power plants can be established in various parts of the country which will minimise the dependencies of rural households on firewood and dung cakes.

iii. By installing solar panels on the roof of the buildings, trapped energy could be used to provide hot water in bathrooms and for lighting the lobbies.
Answer 12
Tourism in the past years has grown substantially in India. An increase of 11.8 percent was seen in the number of foreign tourists in 2010 against the year 2009. Tourism has brought about Rs. 64,889 crores of foreign exchange in 2010 with about 5.78 million tourists visiting India. The tourist industry provides direct employment to about 15 million people in India and also promotes many local and handicraft industries. Thus, tourism is a significant industry in India.

Answer 13
Since salt is an essential food item, the British government’s monopoly of its production and the tax imposed on it affected Indians across class, caste and gender barriers. Hence, when Gandhi decided to break the Salt Law, the move mobilised a large portion of the Indian population against the colonial government. Also, during the Dandi march, Gandhi spread his message of swaraj to thousands of people through lectures and urged them to defy the British government. In this way, the ‘Salt March’ became an effective tool of resistance against colonialism.

Answer 14
Chhotanagpur Plateau region has the highest concentration of iron and steel industries due to the following reasons:

i. This region has vast reserves of coal and iron ore. Also, iron ore is cheaply available in the region, thus providing the raw material for iron and steel industries.

ii. Cheap labour is available to the industries from the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

iii. The region has immense potential for growth in the local markets like Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi etc.

Answer 15
There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy because:

i. Democracy has proven to be a better alternative than other forms of government like monarchy, oligarchy and totalitarianism.

ii. Democracy is a legitimate form of government since it is the rule by people’s elected representatives.

iii. Democracy sometimes might appear to be slow, less efficient, not always responsive or clean. However, it has also proven to be the most sustainable form of government as compared to the alternatives forms.
Answer 16
Democracy in the present world faces many challenges. A challenge is an opportunity for progress as challenges are accompanied by difficulties that can be overcome. This gives us an opportunity to progress further. It is after we overcome a challenge we go up to the next level. With reference to democracy, different countries face different kinds of challenges. The first level of challenge is the foundational challenge. The second level is the challenge of expansion. The third challenge is the challenge of the deepening of democracy. It is when a country overcomes one challenge; it faces another challenge and gets an opportunity to progress to another level of democracy. Thus, we can say that a challenge is not just any problem. It is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress.

Answer 17
Due to development of an economy, there is an added increase in the number of economic transactions. Thus there is greater demand for money as a common medium of exchange. Metallic money from former times was replaced by paper money. The modern forms of money include currency - paper notes and coins. Modern currency is not made of precious metals such as gold, silver etc. and is as such without any use of its own. It is accepted as a medium of exchange because the currency is authorised by the government of a country. In India, the currency department of the Reserve Bank of India attends to the core statutory function of issuing paper money of definite denominations and value. The law legalises the use of this money as a medium of payment which cannot be refused in settling transactions in India. No one in India can refuse to accept this money. Therefore, money is widely accepted as a medium of exchange.

Answer 18
Foreign trade has been integrating markets of different countries, as it allows the producers to cross international boundaries for cheap raw materials. The manufactured goods and services can now be sold in various markets of different countries. With many MNCs in the market, the consumer now has a wide range of products coming from different nations to choose from. Foreign trade therefore, interlinks various markets across the countries. For example, Cargill Foods India an American MNC refines a wide range of edible oils which is marketed locally and imported edible vegetable oils for the food industry. They serve customers with the brands such as Leonardo range of olive oils, Nature fresh, Gemini, Sweekar, Rath, Sunflower Vansapati etc. They are the single largest edible oil producer in India.
**Answer 19**

Right to Seek Redressal

Consumers have been given the right to seek redressal of their grievances relating to the performance, grade, quality etc. of the goods and services. In the case of sale of sub-standard goods, i.e. sale of goods which do not confirm to the prescribed quality standards, the product must be repaired or replaced by the seller. The Consumer Protection Act has duly provided for a fair settlement of genuine grievances of the consumers. It has also set up a proper mechanism for consumer redressal at the district, state and national level.

**Answer 20**

The movement of Romanticism fostered a sense of nationalist sentiment among the European people. Through its focus on emotions, intuition and mythical feelings, Romanticism underlined the importance of the shared cultural heritage of the people and espoused the idea of a nation. Folk culture too brought people with the same cultural heritage together. Folk dances and folk tales often became symbols of national identity. Language popularised the concept of nation in the sense that in Poland, when the Russian Empire imposed the Russian language in schools, the use of Polish came to be seen as an act of defiance against imperial dominance. Hence, in these myriad ways, nationalism developed through culture in Europe.

**OR**

Paul Bernard argued that the French government should make explicit efforts to develop the Vietnamese economy. He made the case that if the economy was developed and the standard of living was raised, the Vietnamese people would purchase more goods. This would expand the market for French businesses and result in profits. He also pointed out that factors like outstanding peasant debt, high population and low agricultural productivity were major hindrances in the economic growth of Vietnam and the French government should carry out land reforms in order to counter these hindrances.

**Answer 21**

Role of banks in India:

i. Accepting deposits from the public is the primary function of a commercial bank. They accept deposits from the people who have surplus amount and provide loans to investors who are in need. Thus, they encourage savings and promote production activities by investing them.

ii. Banks advance loans to business persons, farmers and consumers against approved securities. Cash credit, overdraft, short-term loans, discounting of bill of exchange, money at call etc. are the loans advanced by banks.

iii. They also help in the distribution of surplus capital from regions where it is abundant to those places which have a scarcity of funds.

iv. Banks provide concessional loans to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industry, retail trade, export, etc.

v. Banks provide services such as collection and making payments on behalf of their customers such as insurance premium, dividends etc.
Answer 22

The Non-Cooperation Movement began and spread rapidly in the cities and towns across India. Many Indian students left government schools and colleges on a large scale. Teachers and headmasters on government payroll resigned from their jobs and lawyers gave up their practice en masse. The council elections too were boycotted in most of the provinces of British India.

The Non-Cooperation Movement majorly affected the British economic interests in India. Between 1921 and 1922, the value of imported foreign cloth went down from 102 crores to 57 crores. Merchants and traders even refused to trade in imported goods or provide finance for foreign trade. As a result of all this, the Indian textile and handlooms sector witnessed a major boom.

Answer 23

National Thermal Power Corporation is a major power providing corporation in India. The corporation has taken many steps to preserve the natural environment and resources in India such as:

i. NTPC has been using the latest techniques and has upgraded its existing equipments. This has helped in reducing wastage of many resources.
ii. It has been able to minimise the generation of waste materials by maximising the utilisation of ash.
iii. It has been making efforts to reduce environmental pollution by liquid waste management and ash water recycling systems.
iv. NTPC also supervises and reviews ecological parameters of the surrounding areas where its power stations are located.
v. It has laid down green belts to maintain ecological balance in the regions surrounding its power stations.

Answer 24

Globalisation and greater competition among producers has been advantageous to consumers as follows:

i. Increased investments in Indian markets by MNCs have led to growth of the Indian economy by increased production in many fields such as automobile, cell phone, soft drinks, fast food and garments. MNCs have given vast choices of products to the consumers.
ii. Globalisation has opened new and many opportunities for companies in the service sector, especially the IT companies. These companies have offered their cheap but efficient consulting services to many nations. This has also created millions of jobs in India.
iii. Technological innovations in the fields of telecommunications, computers and Internet have helped people to communicate with each other despite being living in different geographical locations. This has also helped various companies in administering and expanding their business in many countries located in different time zones.
iv. Outsourcing is the major outcome of the globalisation process. A company hires regular services mostly from outside the country or within the country like BPO or call centres, banking service, teaching, maintenance of accounts etc. Many MNCs are outsourcing their services to India at cheaper rates with moderate accuracy. In the post reform period, India has provided global outsourcing with the availability of skilled manpower at low wage rates. In India, outsourcing has generated new employment opportunities.

Answer 25
Following are five important steps taken by the French revolutionaries to create a sense of collective identity among the French people:

i. The idea of a united community with equal rights ensured by a Constitution was promoted by the revolutionaries. This was done by popularising the ideas of la patrie (the fatherland) and le citoyen (the citizen).

ii. A new tricolor flag replaced the old royal standard for the people to identify more with the concept of a French nation.

iii. The Estates General was renamed as the ‘National Assembly’ and came to be elected by a body of active citizens.

iv. A centralised administrative system was set up and tasked with the creation of uniform laws.

v. Regional dialects were purposefully suppressed and Parisian French was promoted as the common language of the nation.

OR

Following are five important steps taken by the French in order to develop the Mekong Delta Region:

i. The French colonial government began to build large canals in the Mekong Delta Region.

ii. Drainage of land was undertaken in order to make more land available for cultivation.

iii. The French augmented rice production in the region by building an extensive irrigation system (canals and earthworks) through forced labour. Three fourths of the increased production was exported and thus, by 1931, Vietnam became the third largest exporter of rice in the world.

iv. Work was started on the Trans Indo-China rail link which would connect the northern and southern parts of Vietnam and China.

v. A second line was built between Vietnam and Siam (Thailand) through Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.
Answer 26
Democracy is better than any other form of government because

i. It tends to promote equality among citizens.
ii. Democracy enhances the dignity of the individual. It supports the dignity of women and strengthens the claims of the disadvantaged sections of society.
iii. Democracy is supposed to be transparent in nature and thus improves the quality of the decision-making process in the country.
iv. It also provides various mechanisms to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.
v. Democracy also allows individuals the chance to correct their mistakes.

Answer 27
Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in India and is found in four different forms. Importance of each form is as follows:

i. **Lignite**: It is brown, low grade quality of coal. It is used in the generation of electricity.
ii. **Bituminous Coal**: This is a slightly higher quality of coal and is the most commercially used form of coal.
iii. **Metallurgical Coal**: It is a higher grade of bituminous coal which is generally used for smelting iron in the blast furnaces.
iv. **Anthracite Coal**: It is the highest quality hard coal. It is used as domestic fuel in hand fired stoves or in automatic stoker furnaces.

Answer 28
A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. Members of such a group agree on certain fundamental values, policies and programmes for the society and strive to follow them in order to achieve public good.

The three components of a political party are – leaders, active members and followers. **The Leaders**: The leaders constitute the higher echelons of a political party. They are the ones who effectively run the government if the party wins the elections.

**The Active Members**: They are the rank and file of the party, mobilising public opinion on the ground and serving as a link between the party followers and the party leaders.

**The Followers**: Simply put, they are the followers of the party leadership who work under the guidance of the active members of the party.
Answer 29

Note: The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates only, in lieu of Q. No.29:

Answer 29.1 – Nagpur
Answer 29.2 – Champaran
Answer 29.3 – Kheda
Answer 30.1
Note: The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q. No. 30:

Answer 30.1 – Chhattisgarh
Answer 30.2 – Porbandar
Answer 30.3 – Bangalore